

Education is important for military career

During the past few years being a member of the Air National Guard has become a real fire hose. What we ask of our members today is well beyond what was expected five or 10 years ago. I am always amazed at what our folks are accomplishing, and what a tough job it must be to balance all the demands of family, civilian job and military duty.

Occasionally something has to give with all that is asked of us. It requires us to make choices, sacrifices and set priorities. If only there was more time!

One area we don't want to let slide is your military career. The formula for a successful military career really isn't all that complicated. Each of us should receive basic AFSC training to perform our assigned duty, we should progressively enhance our skills through CDC's and other professional development courses, do our best in the performance of our duties and complete our professional military education...and yes, actually sit down and set some goals.

Now it may be a lot more complicated than that, but there is one more critical link that will help you achieve your goals. That link is feedback with your supervisor and/or commander. You can communicate what it is you would like to accomplish and learn first hand how you're doing in the eyes of your boss.

Feedback with your supervisor is so important because it clarifies what each of you expects from the other and sets the stage for both better performance and the ability of your boss to actively help you achieve your goals and be on your team.

PME is a problem for some. Remember what I said about something having to give? Unfortunately sometimes that



Leadership Perspectives
Col. Richard Green

something is PME, which if not accomplished, will stop your military career in its tracks. Today more than ever there are opportunities for promotion to the highest NCO ranks, but it requires PME.

So I encourage each of you to take the time to do a feedback session with your supervisor. Don't just check the square, but rather make it a productive time with a healthy exchange of thoughts and ideas; and do your best to complete your PME. I know it's tough, but there are a number of methods to complete it and supervisors at every level have my full support to facilitate you doing what is necessary to complete the requirement.

Success requires "teamwork" and "hard work." Together we can and will succeed.

A little goes a long way

By: Chaplain Bob Jackson

This is an anonymous story about two brothers who worked together on the family farm. One was married and had a large family. The other was single. At the day's end, the brothers shared everything equally, produce and profit.

Then one day the single brother said to himself, "It's not right that we should share equally. I'm alone and my needs are simple." So each night he took a sack of grain from his bin and crept across the field between their houses, dumping it into his brother's bin.

Meanwhile, the married brother said to himself, "It's not right that we should share equally. After all, I'm married and I have my wife and children to look after me. My brother has no one to take care of his future and well being." So each night he took a sack of grain, and dumped it into his brother's bin.

Both men were puzzled for years because their supply of grain never decreased. Then one night the two brothers bumped into each other. Slowly it dawned on them what had been happening.

Like the two brothers, we try to do good for others, but often we don't realize how sincerely others care for us. Then something surprising happens which reveals the rich supply of grain provided us by others. My recent illness took me out of service, yet at the same time the sincere care of so many others was revealed to me. That was a deeply touching experience; it lifted my spirit throughout the recovery. I sincerely thank you for your expressions of support and especially your prayers. The cancer was contained. Since tests revealed no spread, I do not need further treatments or medications. I grow stronger daily and have returned to my usual workload. Thanks be to God and all my brothers and sisters for whom He works to care for each of us. God bless you all!